Procurement of Rice by FCI

577. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY : Will the Minister of FOOD be plaeased to state :

(a) what is the estimated procurement of rice in 1994-95 by Food Corportiaon of India;

(b) what is the State-wise projections of scuch figures ;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are losses in the storage of rice by Food Corporation of India; and

(d) if so, the detai's of losses in storage of rice by Food Corporation of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) Kharif Marketing Season 1994-95 will start from 1st October, 1994 and it is too early to assess the prospects of procurement. Procurement of paddy for Central Pool under price support scheme being totally voluntary and the procurement of levy rice from millers/traders being dependent on quantum of paddy procured by them, no targets, as such, can be fixed for procurement of rice.

(c) and (d) Storage losses in respect of rice by Food Corporation of India are as under :—

(Qty. in Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Quantity	Percentage of quantity issued
1990-91 . . .	1.03	0.58
1991-92 . . .	1.57	0.72
1992-93 . . .	1.43	0.68

The igures for 1993-94 will be available only after the accounts for his fina icial year are audited and finalised

Rise in Sugar Prices

578. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI :
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the wholesale price of sugar has increased to Rs. 1650/- per quintal in May 1994 from Rs. 1085/- per quintal in June, 93;

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken to bring down the price to a reasonable level and the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) The wholesale price of sugar in the five principal markets of the country ranged between Rs. 995/- to Rs. 1135/- per quintal in June, 1993. It ranged between Rs. 1350/- to Rs. 1630/- per quintal in May, 1994.

(b) and (c) Earlier, the rise in sugar prices had been on account of speculative tendencies in anticipation of fall in sugar production during the current season. However, from the second fortnight of May onwards, the prices have been showing a declining trend.

To meet the situation arsing out of the shortage of sugar and to contain the prices of sugar and to ensure adequate availability during the remaining part of the current season and early next season, the following measures have been taken :—

1. Import of sugar has been allowed under OGL. No duty of customs and no additional duty of customs will be levied on this import. A quantity of about 5.98 lakh tonnes imported by private parties has already arrived at various ports upto 22-7-94 and has started reaching